



# business recycling solutions

Recycling – Good for Your Business, Good for the Environment

A Publication of the Sunnyvale Commercial Recycling Program

## Local Focus Certified Green Business

### For Other Living Things

1261 S. Mary Ave  
(408) 739-6785

*For Other Living Things* first opened its doors in 2001. Business Recycling Solutions (BRS) interviewer Mary Lindemuth sat down with store owner Anita Ledtje to find out what sets this certified Green Business apart from the ordinary.



Owner Anita Ledtje cuddles a bunny during a pet adoption fair.

**BRS:** How did you get into the pet supply business?

**Anita:** I dreamed about owning a pet supply store since I was a kid. From an early age I even had the name picked out.

**BRS:** Why a pet supply store?

**Anita:** My philosophy is very different from other pet stores. *For Other Living Things* is pretty particular about how the products we carry impact the environment. Everything has to be critter, people and Earth friendly! For example, you wouldn't eat junk food every day so why would you feed it to your pets? We also spend a lot of time with customers; we can take up to 45 minutes to work with a customer who has issues with what to feed their animals.

**BRS:** You host lots of small animal adoption fairs. How did you come to be a small animal advocate?

**Anita:** Animals have always been a part of my life and my children's life, too.

**BRS:** What motivated or inspired you to get certified as a Green Business?

**Anita:** It's a natural extension of who we are. We care for each other, the animals and the planet. Green business certification was the next step!

Other measures *For Other Living Things* took for certification include:

Instead of buying new, they obtained used racks, refrigerator cases, file cabinets, copiers and display cases to furnish the store.

Installed low-flow aerators on all faucets to reduce water use.

Used a CO<sub>2</sub> footprint calculator to determine and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Provided secure bicycle storage for employees and customers.

Eliminated the use of all chemical and aerosol air fresheners.

For a complete list of all Sunnyvale Green Businesses, visit [Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com). Interested in becoming a green business? See [reducewaste.org](http://reducewaste.org) or call (408) 282-3180 for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Business Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events

**October 18, November 15,  
no December events**

Qualifying businesses may participate by appointment only. (408) 299-7300 or [hhw.org](http://hhw.org)

### Mark Your Calendar!

VERGE San Francisco  
**October 14 – October 17, 2013**  
VERGE San Francisco brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, and leading public officials to explore the opportunities for radical efficiencies created through technology advancements in energy, buildings and transportation. Speakers include, Lisa Jackson, former EPA administrator, now Apple VP of Environmental Initiatives, and Amory Lovins, Cofounder and Chief Scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute. Register at [GreenBiz.com](http://GreenBiz.com).

### Cool California Awards

The CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards program recognizes California small businesses that take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate friendly practices and integrate the tools on [CoolCalifornia.org](http://CoolCalifornia.org) into their business operations. Check it out and save money! For more information visit [CoolCalifornia.org](http://CoolCalifornia.org). Application period closes November 1, 2013.

### Reminder! The Rainy Season is Just About Here!

Make sure to keep your dumpster lids closed. Rainwater that accumulates in dumpsters adds to disposal costs by increasing refuse weight. By keeping lids closed, your company will not only be in compliance with Sunnyvale Municipal Code and help control refuse rates, it will also reduce illegal dumping, litter, odor and disease vectors.

**Business Recycling Solutions is electronic!**  
Subscribe online at [Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com).

# Bag It!

## City Council Updates Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Plastic bag bans have been working well to reduce plastic bag litter. The City of San Jose, whose bag ban went into effect before Sunnyvale's, reported finding 60% fewer bags in waterways. Sunnyvale residents are remembering to bring their reusable bags to the store and City staff are seeing fewer plastic bags during creek cleanups. In August, City Council updated the ordinance on several different fronts. Here are the highlights, effective September 26:

- **A 10 cent charge will apply to both paper AND reusable bags provided at checkout.** The charge on reusable bags is intended to

discourage use of thicker plastic bags that most consumers would not consider being truly 'reusable'.

- **Quarterly reporting by stores will no longer be required.** Stores will still be required to show the bag charge as a separate line item on their receipts but instead of reporting quarterly, stores are asked to maintain records for three years and provide them to the City if requested to do so.
- **Reusable bags must meet specific durability requirements:** The definition of "reusable bag" has been clarified with a specific standard for durability. The existing requirements for labeling

and toxicity remain the same. Please visit [dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/aboutthebag/bagtesting.cfm](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/aboutthebag/bagtesting.cfm) for a list of vendors who sell reusable bags that meet the standard.

- **The paper bag charge will NOT increase to 25 cents:** The charge for paper bags was slated to increase to 25 cent in 2014, but will remain at 10 cents.

If you are a store affected by the ordinance and have questions, concerns or need assistance, please call the Commercial Recycling Program at (408) 730-7484.

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City of Sunnyvale Recycling Program  
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Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707



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Permit No 112

## Your Inquiries

**Q We have a lot of leftover paint stored in our back room. Where can we recycle it?**

**A** October 19 marks the end of the first year of California's new paint take-back program, PaintCare, which allows free, convenient paint drop off at participating retail stores. Visit Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste at [hhw.org](http://hhw.org) and click on **New Paint Takeback Program** to find participating local stores. Due to the overwhelming response to the program, please call the site ahead of time to make sure they are able to accept your paint.

If you have large volumes of unwanted paint, PaintCare now offers a free and convenient collection service. This service is available to residents or businesses with at least 300 gallons of paint. Go to [Paintcare.org](http://Paintcare.org) to schedule a pick up.



### Business Recycling Solutions

Subscribe to Business Recycling Solutions online at [Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com). Please send all comments and questions to: (408) 730-7484, TDD (408) 730-7501 or [mlindemuth@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:mlindemuth@sunnyvale.ca.gov) Product and company listings should not be construed as an endorsement by the City of Sunnyvale.

### Contact Information

**City of Sunnyvale**  
Assistance with Commercial Recycling  
[Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com)  
(408) 730-7484

**Garbage**  
New commercial accounts, service changes, billing, bin cleaning  
(408) 730-7681

**Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling**  
To Set Up Cardboard Recycling Service  
(408) 566-1804